

Career profile Richard Griffiths

Position: Director, Richard Griffiths Architects

Qualifications: MA(Cantab) Dip Arch Grad Dipl Cons(AA) RIBA AABC



Richard Griffiths studied engineering and architecture at Cambridge University. In 1989 he completed the Architectural Association Building Conservation Course, and in 1993 attended the Attingham Summer School for the Study of the English Country House. In 1994 he was awarded a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship to study contemporary developments in the conservation of historic buildings in the USA. He founded Richard Griffiths Architects in 1993 after working with some of the country's leading conservation architects. The practice has established itself as one of the foremost practices in the conservation field, with a particular reputation for new design in historic contexts. The practice has won many awards including five RIBA Awards.

Richard Griffiths was a committee member of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings from 1993 to 1999 and a Trustee of the Churches Conservation Trust from 1999 to 2005. He has lectured in Building Conservation at the IAAS, York University, at the RIBA in the National Trust Lecture Series and at courses run by the SPAB and the Georgian Group. He has also lectured extensively on the application of the Disability Discrimination Act to historic buildings. He has acted as consultant to English Heritage on grants casework, and as Expert Witness at Planning Inquiries. He has been Cathedral Architect at Southwark Cathedral and St Albans Abbey, each for 15 years, and has acted as consultant to other major architectural practices in connection with sensitive projects for the conversion of important historic buildings to new uses, including St Pancras Chambers and the In and Out Club, both to hotel use. He has worked on properties owned by the National Trust and by English Heritage. Projects for which he has been most closely involved include the following:

Sutton House, London

Repair and conversion of Grade II* Tudor house for the National Trust.
(Europa Nostra Awards Commendation; Civic Trust Award; Interpret Britain Award)

Eastbury Manor, London

Improvements to Tudor house for the National Trust and Barking Council.
(Civic Trust Commendation 2004)

Southwark Cathedral

Cathedral architect responsible for all repairs and new design. Millennium Project to include new refectory, meeting rooms, library, and improvements to churchyard.
(RIBA Award and eight other awards 2003-5)

Oxford Castle

Conservation consultant for the conversion of former prison buildings to hotel use.
Repair of Saxon St George's Tower with viewing platform overlooking Oxford towers and spires.

St Albans Abbey

Cathedral Architect responsible for major programme of repair, relighting, access improvements and reordering, including conservation of medieval ceiling and wall paintings, major reordering of the nave, choir and access improvements throughout. (St Albans Civic Society Award 2010, St Albans Civic Society Trevelyan Prize Commendation 2016, RIBA National Award 2017, RIBA East Award 2017 and RIBA East Project Architect of the Year Award 2017)

St Pancras Hotel

Conversion and extension to house hotel and residential uses in association with RHWL £120m. We designed the new wing and the public areas of the hotel (RIBA Award 2012)

St Leonard's, Shoreditch

Repair, replacement of galleries, and provision of community facilities and mental health drop-in centre. New building to house community nursery and special needs housing.

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Lambeth Palace

Repairs to 13th century crypt chapel and new glazed courtyard for the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Church Commissioners. (Shortlisted for RFAC Building of the Year 2001, Civic Trust Awards Commendation 2002)

St Alfege, Greenwich

Repairs to stonework and tower, floodlighting and organ renewal to Hawksmoor church.

Valentine's Mansion, Redbridge

External repairs to 18th century house and rebuilding of portico. HLF project for repair of garden buildings and successful HLF application for major improvement project to the house.

Burghley House

New visitor entrance and ticketing pavilion, and repairs and conversion of the Brewhouse to house an interpretative exhibition and display of special objects from the collection.

Russian Orthodox Cathedral

Internal cleaning of Heywood Sumner sgraffito, redecoration and relighting with new metal chandeliers.

St Paul's Church, Hammersmith

New western extension in the form of a western atrium. (RIBA Award)

Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

New ticket building, refurbishment of Tudor stables as café and exhibition, and recreation of the Tudor Privy Garden according to a written description of 1575. Client: English Heritage.

In and Out Club

Planning consent for conversion of Grade 1 listed Club, originally Palladian Town House of Lord Egremont, into luxury 106 bed hotel.

Central St Martin's Kings Cross

Repair and of the historic fabric of the Granary Building at the heart of the Central St Martin's site.

Ragged School Museum

Conversion of Canalside warehouse as Ragged School Museum about free education in the east end of London.

Whitechapel Art Gallery and Library

Consultant to Robbrecht en Daem, Witherford Watson Mann and the Gallery for the extension of the Gallery into the redundant Library next door.

Hyde Park Hotel

Cleaning and repair of the roofs and external elevations of this late 19th century hotel in conjunction with internal alterations by Eric Parry.

55-91 Knightsbridge

Repair and retention of the front elevation of 1905 terrace by Alban Caroe and recreation of the front roofs as part of a high quality residential development behind the retained facades.

Kings Cross Regent Quarter

Joint masterplan with RHWL for the conservation-led redevelopment of three whole urban block east of Kings Cross Station.